

Boys & Girls Club Annual Drive Kickoff Challenge

For nearly 60 years, the contributions of individuals have helped the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach build great futures. Today, two very special community members, who fully understand the value of investing in youth, have presented a challenge that will double donation dollars made to the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach. They have pledged to match \$25,000 raised by the annual fundraising drive by November 25th. The funds raised will help the Club continue to change lives by helping kids learn and realize their full potential.

Many families have no other affordable options for out-of-school care than the Boys & Girls Club. The Club remains committed to never turning away a child due to financial circumstances, even though there has been a steady rise in parents who have nowhere else to turn. In addition, every child can benefit from the Club's dedication to helping young people develop major assets like critical thinking, empathy, and resiliency with after school academics, creative programs, sports, healthy diet, and lifestyle. Overall, the Club provides children with caring relationships, high expectations, and an opportunity to belong and contribute and believes every child's potential is waiting to be unlocked.

There is living proof of the "ROI" from the community's past support. Boys & Girls Club Board Members Donnie Crevier, Bill Wood, and Keith Swayne are just a few of the Club Alumni who credit the Boys & Girls Club for shaping their lives. As young people, each was involved in Club programs and mentored by Club staff that helped them develop a clear sense of identity and purpose, which they otherwise would not have had. Don Crevier expressed his appreciation, "I'm not sure how my life would have worked out without the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach and the people in it." Bill

Wood commented “Without the guidance I received at the Club, I would have never had the opportunity to attend and complete college and give back to my community.” Bob Whalen, the Club’s Board President remarked, “The Club serves approximately 300 children each day. Contributions to the Boys & Girls Club are an investment in the academic success, healthy lifestyle, character, leadership, and imagination of the next generation.”

With resources so scarce, the Club is careful and deliberate about how it invests in young people, as the need for services continues to grow. Executive Director, Pam Estes stated, “Children are the future and together, with community support, we have the power to brighten and strengthen the future by making a meaningful difference in the lives of the children we serve. We are proud that great futures start here at the Boys & Girls Club.”

Donations can be made by mail to the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach at 1085 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach, CA 92651 or on-line at www.bgclagunabeach.org or by calling Michelle Ray at (949)494-2535x103.

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